

One Good Reason

I asked a soap salesman about soap
in relation to death I mean
did he know about the soap shortages
in World War Two ?
The French managed to make a bit
at home from candle-ends and lye.
The Germans used
concentration camp cadavers
unless they were too thin of course
the skin
for lampshades remember?
And I asked him isn't it a waste
all these Vietnamese
we could make good soap out of
(add the factoryfresh smell)
those sleek brown babies fat too
especially when nursing -- sometimes they die
because too burned or their mothers are --

"But we haven't a soap shortage,"
the salesman said as he picked up his kit
"I've more here now than I can sell."

-- Fanny Ventadour

Winter Park, Florida

The Naming of Trees

Addressing the branches having given up their leaves

Dawn is less early
the birds quieter

I recite to your blank
cold trunk

How tree like woman
how tree like